

# THE LEGISLATURE.

## South Grey's New Representative Introduced.

### MANY BILLS DISCUSSED.

#### Municipal Act Amendments Referred to Committee.

#### Stationary Engineers — Protecting Ginseng — Seeking a Grant for the Teachers' Convention in July.

TORONTO, April 6.

The House of Assembly to-day devoted itself to the consideration of measures introduced by private members. A good many of these were gone through with and the House adjourned early. Some members have not yet returned after the weekly recess, but very few items on the order paper had to be passed over for this reason.

#### South Grey's New Representative.

While the preliminary business was in progress the Attorney-General and Mr. Cleland entered, escorting a tall young gentleman with brown side-whiskers and moustache. "Mr. Speaker," said Mr. Mowat, "I have the honor to introduce Mr. Gilbert McKechnie, member-elect for South Grey, who has taken the oath and claims his seat." "Let the hon. member take his seat," responded the Speaker, and as Mr. McKechnie came forward to receive the Speaker's greeting there was great applause among the Ministerialists. Mr. McKechnie's seat is on the Opposition side among a number of other good supporters of the Government who cannot find room on the right of the Speaker. He takes his place at the extreme southwest corner of the chamber next the Speaker's gallery.

As Mr. Meredith desired that the bill respecting the solemnisation of marriage should not be gone on with at once, the third reading was put off and the private bills were taken up at once. The bill to enable William Barclay Craig Barclay to assume the name of William Barclay Craig was passed in Committee of the Whole. The following private bills were read the second time:—

Respecting the Grand Legion of Ontario, Select Knights of Canada—Mr. Tait.

To consolidate certain debts of the City of St. Thomas—Mr. McColl.

To extend the powers of the Toronto Home for Incurables—Mr. H. E. Clarke (Toronto).

To incorporate the Roman Catholic bishop of the Diocese of Alexandria—Mr. Rayside.

Respecting the debenture debt of the Town of Gananoque—Mr. Preston.

Respecting the waterworks of the Town of Woodstock—Mr. McKay (Oxford).

To authorise the corporation of the Town of Orillia to purchase land for a postoffice site—Mr. Miscampbell.

To consolidate the debt of the Town of Clinton—Mr. Garrow.

To amend the act to incorporate the Manitoulin & North Shore Railway Company—Mr. Conmee.

#### Lectures in University College.

In reply to Mr. Whitney, Mr. Ross stated that lectures in University College began on 1st October and ended on 1st April, except where for special reasons some courses might be prolonged.

#### Debates Ahead.

When the motion standing in the name of Mr. Wood (Hastings), declaring against the fee system of paying public officers, came up, Mr. Wood said he understood the Government desired that it should not be proceeded with at once, whereupon Mr. Meredith asked that a day should be fixed. Mr. Fraser said the Government expected to have this motion gone on with on Wednesday of next week, but if for any reason it had to be further postponed, the Government would undertake that a day should be set apart for it, even if Government business had to be postponed. Mr. Hudson's proposed motion about alleged irregularities in East Hastings in the general election was also postponed. It should come up in the ordinary course on Wednesday next.

#### Stationary Engineers.

The House then passed to the consideration of public bills, most of which awaited their second reading. The first taken up was that respecting stationary engineers and the inspection of stationary boilers. There were cries of "Explain, explain," and Mr. Tait rose accordingly to explain, though every member had the bill before them, and there was hardly a man but understood its provisions. The object is to examine and license stationary engineers and to provide for the inspection of boilers. Mr. Tait referred to the fact that the newspapers often contain reports of loss of life and property by explosions due to the incompetence of the persons in charge. The system proposed in this bill would reduce disasters of this kind to a minimum. When the bill got before the committee, if the House passed it on second reading, any objections to the provisions of the bill could be entered, and those who supported it could be heard.

It became evident in a very short time that there was no very favorable feeling concerning this measure in the House. Mr. Hudson protested against it, referring especially to the case of large lumbering firms such as the Gillmors and Rathbuns, both of which employed inspectors to see that the steam plants they used in connection with their business were properly run and taken care of. Though they employed competent men, it might be quite possible that these men could not pass the examination. Mr. Mackenzie of West Lambton also opposed the bill, speaking as the representative of a constituency in which hundreds and perhaps thousands of small steam plants were constantly in use. It would seriously hamper the oil-producing industry, he said, should this bill become law. He took the same point that Mr. Hudson did, that the men now running the engines were competent, but many of them could not pass an examination based on theories and book learning. He ridiculed the bill for the attempt made to regulate the use of steam plant while leaving it optional with the Township Councils to inspect the steam thresher plant, the most dangerous of all. Mr. Miscampbell, speaking mainly for the engineers engaged in connection with the lumber interest, joined the plea to have the bill thrown out. He contended that injustice would be worked by preventing competent engineers who happened to be in charge of small plants at the time of passing the bill to take charge of large ones. Mr. Whitney, while taking about the same position as others, printed out that a bill in much the same form had been before the committee last year, but had not met with approval. He suggested that the promoters of the bill should prepare a bill during the recess which would be more likely to meet with favor than the present.

Mr. Tait rose to speak, but Mr. Meredith called "Order, order!" not preemptorily, but in a suggestive sort of way. Mr. Tait looked puzzled and a little nettled. The Opposition leader explained that he desired only to call attention to the rule against speaking twice on the same motion, and desired it to be understood that Mr. Tait spoke only by general consent. Mr. Fraser, he said, had spoken earlier in the session of the necessity of observing the rules of the House, and he agreed that this was necessary. When Mr. Meredith first called order Mr. Mowat remarked. "Let the hon.